



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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March 3, 2014

Dear Student:

On behalf of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, I am pleased to inform you that based on the information provided by you and your high school, you have met the academic requirements for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship for the 2014-15 academic year. We congratulate you on your outstanding academic achievements during high school and the academic promise you show for studies in higher education.

Please note that **this is a conditional award**. To be eligible for the Scholarship you must be considered a SC resident and US Citizen/legal permanent resident at the time of high school graduation. Additionally, SC Residency and US Citizen/legal permanent residency status must also be met at the time of initial college enrollment. As such, **the scholarship is contingent upon the eligible SC institution of your choosing verifying all initial eligibility requirements at initial college enrollment**. In addition, you must enroll and attend an eligible four-year institution the fall term immediately after high school graduation.

**MANDATORY:** Prior to verification, you **MUST complete and return the Palmetto Fellow Scholarship Designation Form (2014) immediately upon receipt of this letter**. Please designate the name of the SC institution you plan to attend in Fall 2014. Please note that if there are any changes to the institution of choosing, you must notify Ms. Elizabeth Caulder, Program Manager at [ecaulder@che.sc.gov](mailto:ecaulder@che.sc.gov) before the fall term begins. **Please keep in mind that if this form is not completed and received by our office, your scholarship may be delayed.** You may e-mail the signed form to [ecaulder@che.sc.gov](mailto:ecaulder@che.sc.gov) or fax it to our office at (803) 737-3610.

For the first year (2014-15), you will receive up to \$6,700. During the second, third, and fourth years, the award amount increases to up to \$7,500 per academic year. If you are plan on majoring in math, science, or a health related field, you are encouraged to visit our website at [www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov) to find out how you may be eligible for the STEM Enhancement to increase your award up to \$10,000 after the first academic year. In determining the actual scholarship amount you will receive, other financial assistance you are awarded (i.e., State, federal, and gift aid) will be taken into consideration. This will be done in consultation with your SC institution of attendance, which will advise you of your scholarship amount.

**To renew the award each year you must:** 1) earn at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average at the home institution; 2) earn a minimum of thirty credit hours for graduation purposes each academic year (this includes fall, spring, and subsequent summer terms). Exempted credit hours (such as AP, CLEP, & IB), credit hours earned before high school graduation (Dual Enrollment), and credit hours earned the summer term immediately following high school graduation cannot be used to meet the annual thirty credit hour requirement; 3) sign a Scholarship affidavit/certification provided by the financial aid office at your institution; and 4) be continuously enrolled at an eligible SC four-year institution. Please contact the financial aid office at your institution for more information about the affidavit/certification.

Although you have been conditionally named a Palmetto Fellow for the 2014-15 academic year, you should be aware that **the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the program**.

Congratulations on your very special achievement! I wish you every success in your future academic endeavors.

Sincerely,

Karen Woodfaulk, Director  
Student Services Division

# PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP DESIGNATION FORM (2014 Cohort - Early Award)

<b>A. Student's Name (Last, First, MI):</b>	<b>B. Social Security Number:</b>
<b>C. Mailing Address:</b>	<b>D. Phone Number:</b>
<b>E. High School Attended:</b>	<b>F. E-Mail Address: (Note: This is how we contact you)</b>
<b>G. Name of <u>SC eligible four-year institution*</u> you plan to attend in Fall 2014:</b>	<b>H. Name of <u>out-of-state four-year institution</u> you plan to attend in Fall 2014:</b>

## **I. Student's Certification:**

I understand that in order to receive the Scholarship: 1) SC residency and US Citizen/legal permanent residency must be verified by the institution at the time of initial college enrollment and at the beginning of each academic year; 2) I must attend an eligible SC four-year institution\* the fall term immediately after high school graduation and stay continuously enrolled as a full-time degree seeking student at an eligible SC four-year institution\*; and 3) I must sign a scholarship affidavit at my institution each academic year. I understand that if I fail to comply with all of the above and at any point, the Scholarship will be not be awarded. I understand that **the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the Program.**

If I plan on attending an out-of-state institution, I understand that I will not be awarded the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. However, I understand that I may reapply for the award if I later transfer to an eligible institution and all fall and spring terms after high school graduation will be deducted from my maximum terms of eligibility. The cumulated GPA and credit hours required each academic year for continued eligibility must be maintained. All reapplications will be subject to approval by the Commission on Higher Education. For reapplication see [www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov).

**To renew the Scholarship:** I understand that I must: 1) earn at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA at my home institution by the end of the academic year; 2) earn a minimum of 30 credit hours for graduation purposes by the end of the academic year; and 3) sign a scholarship affidavit/certification provided by the financial aid office at my institution by the institution's deadline. The academic year begins with the fall term and ends with the immediately succeeding summer term. Exempted credit hours (i.e. AP, IB, and CLEP), credit hours earned before initial college enrollment cannot be used to meet the annual credit hour requirement. I also understand that I must sign a form each year provided by the institution's financial aid office that reviews the scholarship requirements (i.e. Affidavit, Certification Form). Additionally, the Scholarship may be transferred to another eligible institution in South Carolina upon receiving prior approval from the Commission on Higher Education. If a student transfers midyear, it is the responsibility of the student to complete an instate transfer request form (which can be found at [www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov)), as well as make arrangements to cover tuition and fees at the transferring institution until confirmation of the transfer request has been completed by the Commission. I have read the information regarding the Palmetto Fellows Program and understand the policies and procedures. I agree to adhere to the scholarship regulation (which can be found at [www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov)), including any changes made during my college matriculation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## **J. Parent/Legal Guardian Certification (required if student is under 18 and unmarried):**

I hereby swear (affirm) that the information provided above about my child is true to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## **\*PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBLE FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS**

Allen University  
Anderson University  
Benedict College  
Bob Jones University  
Charleston Southern Univ.  
Claflin University  
Clemson University

Coastal Carolina University  
Coker College  
College of Charleston  
Columbia College  
Columbia International Univ.  
Converse College  
Erskine College

Francis Marion University  
Furman University  
Lander University  
Limestone College  
Morris College  
Newberry College  
North Greenville University

Presbyterian College  
South Carolina State University  
Southern Wesleyan Univ.  
The Citadel  
USC-Aiken  
USC-Beaufort  
USC-Columbia

USC-Upstate  
Voorhees College  
Winthrop University  
Wofford College



**Return form by August 31, 2014 by mail, fax or e-mail to:**

SC Commission on Higher Education  
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300  
Attn: Palmetto Fellows Scholarship  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Fax: (803) 737-3610  
E-mail: [ecaulder@che.sc.gov](mailto:ecaulder@che.sc.gov)